poor. The corporations/companies created as a result of reorganization of SEBs have shown improvements on various fronts including metering supply of electricity, increase in billing and collection efficiency etc.

The distribution in Orissa was privatized in 1999 when the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses were very high, the billing and collection efficiency was very poor, the status of metering was not encouraging. Consequent on privatisation of distribution, signs of improvement on these and other operational levels are visible. The process of restructuring of electricity industry including privatisation of distribution in Orissa was reviewed by the State Government and it was decided that the upvaluation of the assets of the erstwhile State Electricity Board (SEB) may be kept in abeyance as it was resulting in increase in the cost of power and making it difficult for the sector to achieve commercial viability.

In Delhi distribution has been privatized recently in July, 2002. Prior to privatisation the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss levels as approved by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for the 3 distribution zones taken together were at 50.7%. It is too early to assess the performance of these private companies in Delhi.

(d) As per the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, the Regulatory Commissions have the mandate to *inter-alia*, safeguard the interest of the consumers. The Electricity Bill, 2001 which has been introduced in Lok Sabha and is presently under consideration by the Standing Committee on Energy makes specific provisions on consumer protection, empowering the Regulatory Commissions to specify performance standards of distribution licensees. Failure to meet the standards makes the licensees liable for payment of compensation to the affected person.

Thermal and hydel power projects under construction

2160. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the thermal and hydel power projects under construction in the country, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for their completion;

(c) how many projects are on schedule; and

(d) the reasons for delay in the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assessment of production cost of per unit electricity by NTPC and NHPC

†2161.SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production cost of per unit electricity by the National Thermal Power Corporation and the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has been assessed at Rs.1.60 and Rs.1.40 respectively;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of transmission of power to consumer is much higher than the cost of production; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details of this expenditure per unit in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The average cost of generation of energy for the year 2001-02 in case of operating projects works out to about Rs.1.43/kwh in case of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and about Rs.1.10/kwh in case of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) as per details at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) In most States, the cost of supply per unit is reported to be more than the cost of purchase of power/generation per unit. State-wise cost of Power supply per unit during the year 2001-02 (Annual Plan) is at Statement-II.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.